



January 18, 2005

**“Survivor” winner Richard Hatch  
is charged with filing false tax returns**

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**Hatch allegedly failed to report \$1,000,000 in “Survivor” winnings  
and \$321,000 paid to him by a radio station**

The United States Attorney has charged **Richard Hatch**, of Newport, a former contestant on the CBS television show, “Survivor,” with filing a false income tax return that omitted more than \$1,000,000 he received for winning “Survivor.” Hatch is also charged with failing to report approximately \$321,000 paid to him by a Boston radio station.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente and Joseph A. Galasso, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, jointly announced a two-count information that was filed today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

**“Survivor” winnings**

According to the information, Survivor Entertainment Group paid Hatch \$10,000 in August 2000 for appearing on the final episode of the initial “Survivor” series and \$1,000,000 for being declared the winner of the show. The information alleges that, in November 2002, Hatch filed a false personal income tax return for the 2000 tax year by failing to report the \$1,010,000 paid to him by Survivor Entertainment Group.

**The Wilde Show**

According to the information, between January and December 2001, Hatch made appearances on WQSX-FM, Boston, as a co-host of the radio program, “The Wilde Show.”

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The owner of WQSX-FM, Entercom, Boston, LLC, paid Hatch \$391,371 for being on the show: \$70,232 to Hatch personally at first and, subsequently, \$321,139 through Tri-Whale Enterprises, a corporation that Hatch had formed for himself.

The information alleges that, in October 2002, Hatch filed false corporate and personal income tax returns for the 2001 tax year by failing to report the \$321,139 that Entercom paid to him through Tri-Whale for his appearances on WQSX-FM.

The information charges Hatch, 43, of 21 Annandale Road, Newport, with two counts of filing false income tax returns. An information is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Upon conviction, the statutory maximum penalty for each count of filing a false income tax return is five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

A summons will be issued for Hatch to appear in U.S. District Court, Providence, for arraignment. The arraignment has not been scheduled.

The **Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation**, investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Lee H. Vilker and Andrew J. Reich are prosecuting it.

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